SUDOKU ALPHA

QUICK **A5289**

8			6				5	
1		7	9		4		3	8
					2	9		
4	3				9	2	1	
	7			6				
2					6			
		8	4				6	3
			5	7	3		2	9

TRICKY **B5289**

				8		9	1	
9		5					4	3
				3				
			8	5		2	3	
4	7				1		6	
	8							
6		1					5	
	2							
3	5			7	2			

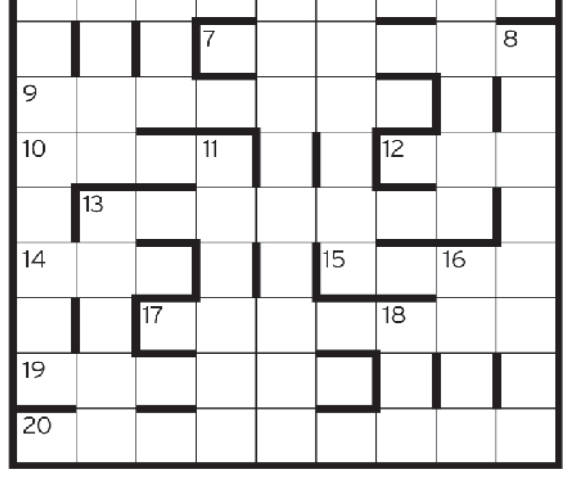
To solve this puzzle each 3x3 box, each row and each column must contain all the numbers 1 to 9. While the rules may be simple, there are numerous strategies to help you solve sudoku. For hints and information visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

Created by Peter Ritmeester (C) PZZL.com

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

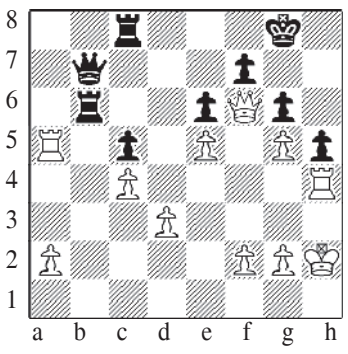
1 Carrot, for example (9)
7 Sofa (6)
9 Distinct elements (7)
10 Beloved (4)
12 Place a limit on (3)
13 Committee (7)
14 Baby's bed (3)
15 Brave person (4)
17 Got away (7)
19 Friendly (6)
20 Equivalents (9)



DOWN

1 Railway bridges (8)
2 Alleviate (4)
3 Hole (3)
4 Involving particular scientific skills (9)
5 Connect (6)
6 In accordance with the law (5)
8 Lex posed (anag.) (8)
11 Country, capital Moscow (6)
13 Hot drink (5)
16 Genuine (4)
18 Pastry dish (3)

CHESS



WHITE'S WORST PAWN MOVE?

HINT: IT ALLOWS A FORCED MATE.

Solution: 1. f4(?), ... Rb2! (threatening ... Qxg2 mate) [Dubov-Grachev '14].

TARGET

F	O	N
H	D	F
E	A	D

HOW many words of four letters or more can you make from the letters shown here?
In making a word, each letter may be used once only. Each must contain the centre letter and there must be at least one nine-letter word.
No plurals or verb forms ending in "s".

TODAY'S TARGET

Good 12;

Very good 18;

Excellent 24 (or more).

Solution tomorrow.

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTIONS

FAIRYLAND

afraid aldrin arid aridly daily dairy darn dial diary dinar drain dray drily FAIRYLAND farad find idly idyl lady laid laird land laniard lanyard lard nadir naiad nard radial radian raid rand rind yard

THE METRO FUNNIES

BIG NATE | BY LINCOLN PEIRCE

OKAY, GUYS, YOU'VE ALL GOT YOUR NICKNAMES!
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOUR NICKNAME?
MAKING UP YOUR OWN NICKNAME IS LAME. YOU COME UP WITH SOMETHING.
OKAY, I'LL CALL YOU "MONEY."
AH! BECAUSE I'M SO VALUABLE WHEN THE GAME'S ON THE LINE!
SURE. THAT.
I'M COLD, HARD CASH, BABY.
AND ALSO, YOU OWE ME EIGHT BUCKS FOR THE POPCORN I BOUGHT YOU AT "AVATAR 3."
Visit bignate.com

THE WIZARD OF ID | BY BRANT PARKER AND JOHNNY HART

BABY BLUES

DADDY AND THE BIG KIDS WENT TO THE HARDWARE STORE, SO WE'RE ALONE FOR A WHILE.
SO I GUESS IT WON'T HURT IF I JUST BREAK MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION A TEENIE BIT AND...
FOR A TODDLER, YOU CAN BE PRETTY JUDGY.

WEATHER

Sunset & Sunrise

	Hyderabad	Islamabad	Karachi	Lahore	Peshawar	Quetta
Sunset	05:49pm	05:14pm	05:55pm	05:13pm	05:18pm	05:48pm
Sunrise	07:12am	07:09am	07:16am	07:00am	07:17am	07:24am

Three Day Forecast

	Today				Tomorrow			Day After		
	Min	Max	Outlook	Humidity%	Min	Max	Outlook	Min	Max	Outlook
Faisalabad	7	18	Partly Cloudy	90	6	18	Sunny	8	17	Sunny
Hyderabad	8	23	Sunny	60	9	25	Sunny	10	24	Sunny
Islamabad	7	18	Mostly Sunny	86	7	18	Partly Cloudy	7	16	Partly Cloudy
Lahore	7	17	Partly Cloudy	90	6	17	Sunny	7	15	Sunny
Multan	7	18	Sunny	84	7	19	Sunny	9	18	Sunny
Peshawar	6	19	Partly Cloudy	76	6	19	Sunny	6	17	Mostly Sunny
Quetta	1	13	Sunny	70	0	13	Sunny	1	12	Mostly Sunny

Temperature estimates are internationally sourced and may differ from local estimates.

HELP

EMERGENCIES

Police Help	15, 99212652-53, 99212634
CPLC	1102, 35662222
Fire Brigade	16, 99215007, 99215008.
Bomb Disposal	99212674
KE Complaints	118
Telephone complaints	1218
Railway Inquiry	99213565-66
PCAA Flight Inquiry	99071284, 99071259
	99071265, 114

HOSPITALS

Abbasi Shaheed	99260400-09
Civil Hospital	99215740, 9215960
Jinnah Hospital	99201300-99201301
NICVD	99201271-6
Aga Khan Hospital	34930051
Medicare Hospital	021-111-001-786
Kharadar Gen Hospital	32510113-16
Indus Hospital	35112709
Tabba	36811841, 111844844
Ziauddin Hospital	35862937-9, 36648237-9
Kiran Cancer Hospital	99261601-04
Liaquat National	111-456-456, 34939615
Memon Medical	34691147 — 54
A.O. Clinic	36685564, 3668550-64
Baqai Hospital	36618396, 36618398
Holy Family Hospital	32258994, 32258991
Patel Hospital	111174174
South City Hospital	35374072
Kidney Centre Institute	35661000-10
Karwan-e-Hayat	021-111534111
Usman Memorial	021-36310311-15

AMBULANCE

Edhi	115, 32310066, 32310077
Chhipa	1020
SIEHS/Rescue	1122
St.John	32250500, 32250600
Red Crescent	35306227, 35306228

BLOOD BANK

Fatmid	32225284, 32258656
Husaini	32238405-08
PWA (Civil)	99215740, 99215959

WORD GAME

By Kathleen Saxe

▼ TODAY'S WORD
VACUOUSNESS

(VACUOUSNESS: VAK-yoo-us-ness: Lacking content.)

Average mark 25 words
Time limit 45 minutes

Can you find 40 or more words in VACUOUSNESS?

The list will be published tomorrow.

SOLUTIONS

▼ YESTERDAY'S WORD – ECCENTRIC

enter	teen	rite
entice	tern	inert
entire	tier	inter
erect	tine	
erne	tire	
cent	tree	
center	trice	
centric	recent	
cite	recite	
nice	rein	
nicer	rent	
niece	retie	
niter	rice	

RULES OF THE GAME:

1. Words must be of four or more letters.
2. Words that acquire four letters by the addition of "s," such as "bats" or "dies," are not allowed.
3. Additional words made by adding a "d" or an "s" may not be used. For example, if "bake" is used, "baked" or "bakes" are not allowed, but "bake" and "baking" are admissible.
4. Proper nouns, slang words, or vulgar or sexually explicit words are not allowed.

YESTERDAY'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

ACROSS

1 Asteroid
8 Wenger
9 Volt
10 Leo
11 Iodine
13 Splash out
15 Strand
17 Bat
18 Judo
19 Legato
20 Go-getter.

DOWN

1 Advisable
2 Snoops
3 Told
4 Reinstate
5 Once
6 Igloo
7 Front door
12 Bundle
14 Let go
15 Stag
16 Aunt.

METRO EVENTS

PLAYS

Two plays — *Baggage* by Fateh Azam and *The Quiet Shift* by Abdul Rehman — are staged in the basement of the National Academy of Performing Arts, at 8pm.

COMEDY

'Mix Plate Improv', a comedy show by the Jungle.PK, is organised at Habitt City, Tipu Sultan Road, at 10:30pm.

QAWWALI

A qawwali night featuring Saqib Ali Taji Qawwal is held at Moon Farmhouse, Gadap Town, at 6pm.

CONVOCATION

The 2nd Convocation of Nazeer Hussain University is held at its premises, ST-2, Block-4, F.B. Area, at 6pm.

MUSIC

A music show is held at HMR Waterfront, Abdul Sattar Edhi Ave, DHA Phase 8, at 3pm.

HOROSCOPE

By Georgia Nicols

ARIES | March 21-April 19

*** This is a low-energy day. If you work from home, you might not get dressed. This is a poor day to ask for permission or approval from anyone in a position of authority -- a parent, boss, supervisor or the police. Tonight: Relax.

TAURUS | April 20-May 20

*** Today conversations with others will be like two ships passing in the night. Don't expect much, especially if you're dealing with travel issues or publishing. Ditto for legal or medical matters. This is a low-energy, even confusing day. Sit this one out. Tonight: Conversations.

GEMINI | May 21-June 20

*** Although you might be interested in discussing financial matters, this is not the day to do it. Everyone is running on empty. Communications are slightly confused and definitely disinterested. Take a nap. Tonight: Check your money.

CANCER | June 21-July 22

**** People are tired today and not particularly interested in anything other than food. (That's a given.) Because the Moon is in your sign, you have a slight edge over all the other signs, which means things might go your way. Tonight: Stay mellow.

LEO | July 23-Aug. 22

*** This is a sluggish day at work. It's difficult for people to concentrate. You might be preoccupied with the past. You might find yourself being more concerned with trivialities than the matter at hand. Don't be hard on yourself. Everyone feels this way today. Tonight: Solitude.

VIRGO | Aug. 23-Sept. 22

*** This is a tough day for parents. You feel low-energy, and dealing with kids requires strength and focus. Good luck! This is also the classic day for misunderstandings and disappointments in romance. People are not interested. They're distracted. ("Are you kidding me? You're distracted?") Tonight: Talk to a friend.

LIBRA | Sept. 23-Oct. 22

*** This is a poor day for an important family discussion, although this is exactly what might take place today. If so, your timing could be better. Relax at home. Postpone important decisions for another day. Take it easy and cut everyone else some slack. Grab a cookie. Tonight: Be aware.

SCORPIO | Oct. 23-Nov. 21

*** It's curious, because the planetary vibes today will make you want to talk to someone. You have ideas you want to share, plus you want to hear the latest gossip or news about town. However, you might be too tired to go out. You can barely scroll. It's that kinda day. Tonight: Ponder future travel.

SAGITTARIUS | Nov. 22-Dec. 21

*** Financial matters will require your attention today, whether they're about your earnings or possessions, or something to do with the shared resources of someone else. However, your physical energy is low and your mental energy is lower. Cope as best you can. Everything seems to be too much trouble. Tonight: Tidy up paperwork.

CAPRICORN | Dec. 22-Jan. 19

*** Most people are bummed out because they're low-energy today and can't crank up enough interest to put out the effort. We've all been there. We've all had days like this. Well, this is another one. Because the Moon is opposite your sign, you have to compromise. (I'm not making this up.) Tonight: Listen.

AQUARIUS | Jan. 20-Feb. 18

*** "Beware! Today people are acting under the influence of human nature." Actually, this is not entirely true. Human nature is pumped and enthusiastic most of the time. But today is not one of those times. Today it will be hard to get out of bed. Stay chill. Tonight: Do something.

PISCES | Feb. 19-Mar. 20

**** You might enjoy a relaxing time with a friend if you can each sit comfortably and not expect too much from each other. The fact is you do feel like socializing, but it's too much trouble. It's best to see people in small doses today. Tonight: Relax.

The stars show the kind of day you'll have: 5-Dynamic; 4-Positive; 3-Average; 2-so-so; 1-Difficult

CONTRACT BRIDGE

Bidding Quiz

By Steve Becker

Bidding quiz

You have the following hand:
♠ J ♥ 9863 ♦ AKQ1084 ♣ A7

1. You deal and bid One Diamond. Partner responds One Spade. What would you bid now?

2. You deal and bid One Diamond. Partner responds One Heart. What would you bid now?

3. You deal and bid One Diamond. Partner responds Two Clubs. What would you bid now?

4. You deal and bid One Diamond. Partner responds Three Diamonds (forcing). What would you bid now?

* * *

1. Two diamonds. It is true that this is a slight underbid which could cost you a game (in notrump) that partner might bid if you elected to bid three diamonds instead.

Despite this, the winning bid in the long run is two diamonds. You need a fairly decent hand from partner to make a game, and you should assume that if he has it, he will bid again. It is a good idea to remember that your partner is just as anxious as you are to make a game rather than a partscore.

2. Three hearts. You should certainly apprise partner of a possible game in hearts, and you do this by making a double raise (16-18 points) in his suit. If your hearts were, say, Q-9-8-6, you could jump to four.

You are not likely to miss a game if partner passes three hearts, which he is permitted to do. If he is so weak (six or seven points) that he has to pass, he might have his hands full just trying to make nine tricks.

3. Three diamonds. This time, as distinguished from the first problem where your partner could have only six points, you can afford to jump to three diamonds to show your extra values. Partner's two club bid promised 10 points or more, and since this, in conjunction with your values, adds up to a probable game, you should make a jump-rebid (forcing once partner has indicated at least 10 points).

4. Four clubs. About all you can do is to tell partner, by cuebidding the ace of clubs, that your hand is not a minimum and that you have first-round control of clubs. Whether you make a slam, or even a game, depends on how well partner's hand fits with yours. If he has, say, ♠62 ♥AK ♦J9632 ♣KQJ5, you have an easy 12 tricks, while if he has ♠AQ3 ♥Q5 ♦J9765 ♣QJ4, you might not even make 11 tricks.

Tomorrow: Look for the silver lining.

YESTERDAY'S SUDOKU SOLUTIONS

Quick — A5288

8	5	7	4	1	6	9	2	3
6	1	4	3	2	9	7	8	5
2	9	3	5	7	8	6	4	1
7	8	5	1	4	2	3	6	9
1	3	6	9	8	7	2	5	4
4	2	9	6	5	3	1	7	8
5	6	1	2	9	4	8	3	7
3	4	8	7	6	1	5	9	2
9	7	2	8	3	5	4	1	6

Tricky — B5288

7	6	3	9	8	1	4	5	2
1	4	9	2	5	7	8	3	6
5	2	8	4	6	3	9	1	7
8	7	5	1	9	6	2	4	3
3	1	2	5	7	4	6	8	9
4	9	6	3	2	8	1	7	5
9	3	4	7	1	2	5	6	8
6	5	7	8	4	9	3	2	1
2	8	1	6	3	5	7	9	4